

"WAR'S DRESS REHEARSAL."

The Mimic Campaign on the Historic Fields of Manassas.

The play at Manassas, where detachments of the "land forces" of the military arm of the United States Government are trying conclusions on the latest and most improved methods of killing an enemy, is almost at an end. It is said by the military men who have been watching things with eagle eyes, that the maneuvers have been of exceptional advantage to the men and to their commanders.

Well, they ought to be, for they have cost a heap. If the money has been well spent ought to be. Some people are not so sure, but then some people will not be happy in heaven, and some will not be happy in hell. It will no doubt astonish a great many to know that in the beginning the Surgeon-General of the United States Army was the "big man." That after the General of the Army had selected what seemed to him to be an excellent site for these great maneuvers, the Surgeon-General had to go over the 65,000 acres of land and set the size of the area upon which the General could definitely settle the question.

The dressing of wounds and the care of wounded and diseased men is a small part of a Surgeon's work in the Army. His great task is always to see that the camps of the army are pitched with a proper regard to the health of the men who live in them. He must be on his guard constantly against disease, and he must be getting into the camp, and to keep the men from coming in contact with disease.

This is an extremely difficult matter. Disease germinates, some way, in large, well-kept cities where garbage is carefully removed, great sewers and large quantities of water carry away all waste matter, and scientific invention holds possession of the homes with its disinfectants and its medicines. In these homes men and women live moderately well-conducted lives according to method and with regard to sanitary habits. In the camps, on the other hand, the men live in tents, and all this typhoid, low fever, and nervous disorders are often epidemic. In a big camp where 15,000 to 30,000 men congregate, let loose from all restraint, the Surgeon carries a mountain on his shoulders. He has two awful foes to fight—typhoid fever and pneumonia, the very worst scourges of military camps in the old army. During the Spanish war, even with all the improved methods of 40 years ago, thousands of men sickened with one or the other of these diseases, and if they did not die, were wrecked for life thereby.

In view of all this, the Medical Corps for the Manassas maneuvers was for the largest the United States has ever supported in the field in time of peace. The force was divided into three camps, and included about 100 officers and 500 enlisted men of the Medical Department of the United States Army. These men were augmented in large numbers by those brought in by the "land forces" of the United States engaged in the maneuvers. They are apportioned among the regular troops, and are included in the staff of two division hospitals, two field hospitals, with each division, two ambulance companies with each division, and in the various regiments and separate organizations.

THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS of the two divisions were on the ground for two or three weeks and carefully went over every inch of the camps to examine the lay of the ground. They examined and tested every stream of water, every spring, and every well. Each of these was guarded. A great road went up from the farmers, but they could not help themselves. The War Department was paying them big money as rent for the lands, and for the month of the maneuvers. The Government, and it could do so as it liked with its own. Some of these water sources were placarded "good," "very good," "indifferent," "bad," "very bad," and "the best." The "indifferent" and "the bad" were what the farmers, who did not like for their "fine" springs to be labelled thus. They had to submit, however.

The division and field hospitals are fitted out in the most modern style. To each division hospital is attached an operating tent with modern operating table of plate glass and a sterilizer of the most approved type. Each hospital is provided with an acetylene plant and clusters of gas jets, so that an abundance of the purest white rays can be had at all times. Sanitary appliances, such as rubber cups, are furnished in large numbers, so that they may be burned. The tents in the tents stand well from the ground, and each is furnished with two suitcases for the patients, one of which occupies it, each set of bed clothing, pajamas, etc., being sterilized and kept in sterile covers. Each cot is covered with mosquito bars.

For the field work the Surgeons are provided a force of 36 ambulances and a train of four tractors and eight pack mules for each division. The tractors are frames that are pulled out by the tractors, and are carried in them. The frames are shaped like cots and are slung on the backs of the mules in much the same manner as a pack. Such ambulances were used in the actual warfare, but the system that has been selected for test here is as great an improvement over the old method as the modern hospital over that of ancient days.

SOMETHING AS TO AMBULANCES. It is an interesting fact that 50 years ago, prior to the war, the ambulances of the British army did not exist in the British army. The origin of the word is French, and originally meant a walking or movable hospital. Since the Crimean war the word ambulance has meant a hospital, and the conveyance of sick and wounded soldiers. During the Crimean war, England's wounded were carried from the field by the sailors in hammocks, in ordinary transport wagons, and in ambulances borrowed from the French. Nor were there any trained stretcher bearers, field hospitals or hospital ships. The bandmen alone were available to carry away their wounded comrades, and the regimental Surgeons dressed their wounds on the field. The crying evils of such a system, or lack of it, led Lord Herbert to effect a considerable improvement in field hospital work in 1857-58.

Before the war of the rebellion closed, the thought was had things in the way of hospital service down pretty fine, but the methods pursued at the Manassas maneuvers are as a parlor to the butler's pantry, and Chief Surgeon John L. Phillips declares that there is not a single element of the work that may not be carried out in active service on a real battlefield where the wounded come in in scores.

The manner of getting wounded men off the field is entirely different from the old way, too. There are lots of tags which the commanding officer is supposed to carry around in his pocket, and when a man is wounded, he hunts the tag which describes the wound and has it attached to the man, who is carried off the field. At the hospital, the tag is exchanged for another which describes the shape he was in when he arrived, who brought him, and a lot of other things. This in turn is exchanged for a hospital tag when the man is at last located in his bed. Later all three of these tags are compared and a history of the case is thus made up from the beginning. Just the same there is altogether too much red tape about the tagging business for real warfare. When men are falling around like flies with poison it is not at all likely that anybody is going to stop to hang up a "commanding officer" to get the right kind of a tag for him before he is carried off the field.

wanted to see the maneuvers, and other thousands of camp followers. The resources of the officers in charge were severely taxed. There has never been so large an army in camp in one place in any of our wars. And all their was great deal to contend with, although we have learned a little sense about our military household and how it shall be cared for, provided by the existence in the Spanish war. It will be remembered that at the time the war with Spain broke out almost everything that was needed to fit out our troops was lacking. No preparation for any such emergency had ever been made, and the clothing of the men who won that victory and the other thousands who would have helped if the victory had not been so quickly won, was running around on the plains of the great west on the backs of the sheep, the cotton, the hemp, were in bloom in the fields, and the metal for the big guns and little was lying in crude pigs of steel waiting for the blast of the armorer's fire to turn it into the "burnished rows of steel" which were to guard the Stars and Stripes to glorious victory in the far-off Philippines.

Even our little Regular Army had not tents enough to shelter it, if all turned outdoors at once; and as for rationals! Why, there wasn't enough on hand to feed 30,000 men one week's rations.

The condition of affairs was simply awful. It is some better now, but not enough so yet. For the last six months, however, the War Department has been getting things together for the maneuvers, but how to get these on to the ground was the problem.

To trust to the ordinary facilities of the railroad, no matter how extensive the system might be, would have resulted in causing a blockade of the road and a delay of traffic during the time the troops were being detained. Therefore, after consultation with the railroad officials, numerous spurs were run from the main line direct to the camp and separate systems were provided for the men and the baggage. For unloading the former one system of sidings was constructed and for getting out the latter another system was used. For the storage of the cars after

the men and baggage were unloaded another system of spurs was built, and by the careful work of the Quartermasters a system was evolved which seems to defy any element to cause confusion or the slightest kind. The system was put to a most severe test at Thoroughfare when eight troops of the 7th U. S. Cav., horses and men, on five trains, were rolled into the sidings. It required just exactly 17 minutes to detain every one of those men and horses, the quickest time for such work on record. Gen. Bell, a cavalry officer of 30 years' experience, was amazed at the performance and stated openly that he had never seen or heard of such complete work in his life.

WOOD AND WATER. Two things most necessary to a good camp are wood and water. It was necessary for the officers of this Department to provide these necessary commodities for the men. The Quartermasters being expected to furnish the wood, and the Commissary the food supply. But if there was no wood or water and no camp laid out, neither of these two Departments could do anything for the troops. It was for the Quartermasters were put to it to provide these three necessities. They dug wells, piped every section of the camp and have erected hydrants; they measured off the space to be occupied by each company, troop and battery, and by each regiment, brigade and division. It required the hardest kind of hard work to complete all these things, and there has never been a moment when the officers assigned to this duty have been idle. After the regiments were camped they still had their duties to perform, and when the last soldier had departed they were required to undo what they had done with the same dispatch and in as thorough a manner as the original task was accomplished. The duties of the umpires are manifold in exercises of this kind. As defined in the preliminary instructions for umpires issued by the War Department they represent the "impressions and consequences of actual war."

THE UMPIRES. The force of umpires numbers 51 officers, ranking from Colonel to Captain. No officer lower than the rank of Captain was chosen, and it was the desire to select field officers (officers ranking as Majors or higher) exclusive of staff officers, but the limited number of those available made it necessary to go to the list of Captains. The reason given for selecting officers of the higher grades for umpires was that the work requires men of wide experience and long acquaintance with military methods. The umpires are selected from among the best equipped and most efficient men of the army and the fact of their selection is a testimonial of the high estimate placed upon their abilities by their superiors. The force was divided into two sections. One section was with the Blue army and one with the Brown. The Chief Umpire was with neither army and was the supreme authority of the maneuver field. With each army the senior officer was senior umpire and was supreme in his army, the other officers were subordinate to these three. The Chief Umpire, as has been previously mentioned, was Col. A. S. Wright, of the 1st Cavalry. He was Chief Umpire at West Point and Fort Riley last year, and who has been, lately, the second in command of the General Service and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Col. Jacob A. Augur, 10th Cav., was the Senior Umpire with Gen. Grant's army and Col. Edgar Z. Stuever, 4th Cav., was the Senior Umpire with the Brown. All the umpires detailed for this duty wore the uniform of the divisions to which they are attached and are distinguished from the other troops by a white cap or hat. The Chief Umpire is permitted to wear either the blue or brown uniform and is accompanied by a mounted orderly carrying his flag, a white ensign with a large red X in the center.

OBJECTS TO BE ATTAINED. All of the officers concerned in the organization of the maneuver corps desire it to be fully understood that in the condition of affairs that are to be brought about there is to be no attempt to work over any tactical problems, such as the battles of the civil war that have been fought out on the fields surrounding the maneuver zone. They declare that it cannot be too often explained and reiterated that army field exercises of this character are but elements in the education of the sol-

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diets, and are given under these conditions because they are the only conditions under which such exercises are practicable. This is not to be a sham battle or a fight. The question of which side wins does not enter into the usefulness of the maneuvers in any sense of the word, although the rivalry between the two opposing forces is calculated to spur the individual soldier on to greater endeavor. The situations that are presented in the program are entirely different from those of any battle in history, and are made up for the purpose of instruction only. A decision is not made as to which side wins, but as to which positions, which movements, and which tactical problems presented by the conditions which will arise and which could not be foreordained in any manner are the best according to the recognized rules of warfare, and the natural results of such movements, positions and the execution of such problems. Col. Wagner specifically disclaims the intention to simulate anything. War, he declares, cannot be simulated. By a system of exercises, the morale of the losses by bullets can be secured, but the great questions of the morale of the troops, which are affected by the actual conduct of the war, cannot be reproduced, so he declares, and these are the most important elements in battle.

The effect of the fire of a body of troops does not always depend so much on the number of troops as it does on the number of troops it affects morally or mentally, it is said. It is pointed out that in the first battle of Bull Run the moral effect of some of the movements of the Confederate troops was secured by the stampeding of the section of the Union army on the actual field of battle than the bullets from the rifles of the Southern cannot possibly be caused in a battle where blank ammunition is used. The effect of men falling dead, or mangled comrades dropping from the ranks and of the actual conflict between bodies of men who are engaged seems to be to kill and maim are things that are absolutely foreign to times of peace and cannot be produced by artificial means.

THE MIMIC CAMPAIGN. The contending forces are known as the "Blues" and the "Browns." The Blues are commanded by—

Major Gen. Frederick Dent Grant, Division Commander. Brig. Gen. Theodore J. Went, U. S. A., First Brigade. Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, U. S. A., Second Brigade. Col. Butler D. Price, Sixteenth U. S. I., Third Brigade. Brig. Gen. Russell Frost, U. S. A., Fourth Brigade. Col. William M. Wallace, Fifteenth U. S. C., Cavalry. The Browns are commanded by—

Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell, Division Commander. Brig. Gen. J. M. Lee, U. S. A., First Brigade. Brig. Gen. Thomas H. Barry, U. S. A., Second Brigade. Col. James Hegan, Ninth U. S. I., Third Brigade. Col. F. A. Smith, Eighth U. S. I., Fourth Brigade.

The third battle of Bull Run began at midnight Monday, Sept. 5, with the placing of outposts by Gen. Bell's army of Browns, at Thoroughfare, and the throwing out of an advance guard by Gen. Grant's army of Blues, stationed at Manassas.

The hours between midnight and dawn were occupied by Gen. Grant in placing his artillery in advantageous positions for the attack upon the Browns. Firing from the big guns began at long range shortly after daylight, followed by infantry skirmishing, then general fighting all along the line.

According to the rules of the mimic war game, the Blue army was supposed to be based on the Potomac at Washington, and the Brown army was supposed to be operating in the Shenandoah Valley against Washington.

The leading corps of the Blues consists of two divisions, one real, at Manassas, commanded by Gen. Grant, and another, imaginary, at Fairfax Court House. The rest of the Blue army was supposed to be preparing to move forward from Alexandria.

could not keep track of the game, and reported to the wrong division, while orderlies played along generally.

ON THE OLD BATTLEFIELD. It is said that the militia will be severely reprimanded for its unsoldierly conduct in the actual work in the field. The militia did so well in fact as to bring high commendation from the commanding officers.

The second problem battle is said by the paucity of a reserve of the first battle of Bull Run, with the Blues occupying substantially the position of the Union army, with the Browns holding that of the rebels. The second battle was a limited exercise. In the first battle of Bull Run, Gen. McDowell moved forward from Centerville, with his left division under Tyler threatening the rebels by the way of Blackburn's Ford, while two of his right divisions under Hunter and Heintzelman made a long march to the right to outflank Beauregard and Johnston, and take them in the rear on the edge of the Sudley Springs road and the Stone Bridge.

On the other hand, Beauregard and Johnston had planned to turn our flank by the way of Blackburn's Ford in the event of our success at the Stone Bridge, and cut off McDowell from uniting with Patterson, who was supposed to be coming up.

McDowell's plan, which was an excellent one if it had been properly carried out, had been surprised Johnston and Beauregard, turned their left flank, and drove it back upon the main body. If the attack had been pushed home the rebels would have been badly defeated. As it was, they were very much demoralized, and only the shelter of the pine woods, into which they saved them from annihilation, the Union troops were able to secure a victory. The superior numbers of fresh troops which Johnston and Beauregard kept bringing up through the woods to renew their fight, and the fact that the Union blows upon the rebels that Gen. Davis, who approached the battle from the rear, was convinced that his army had been badly defeated, and could not be made to fight again. The Union troops, however, did not see the situation, and saw our troops retreating, which did for a while in excellent order. The panic came some distance from the battle, and without any rhyme or reason for it.

In the second problem of the mimic campaign carried out last week, the night before the final battle found the Blues, under Gen. Grant, in a position similar to the same position occupied by the rebels on the same morning, except that the Brown left extended far beyond Young's Branch, and they had a heavy force in and about the position, but the "Blue" brigade," when on the forenoon of July 21, 1861, with his center at the Stone Bridge, by night march the Browns' under Gen. Bell, had come to something like the position occupied by the rebels on the same morning, except that the Brown left extended far beyond Young's Branch, and they had a heavy force in and about the position, but the "Blue" brigade," when on the forenoon of July 21, 1861, with his center at the Stone Bridge, by night march the Browns' under Gen. 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